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## Poetry.

### THE TALK OF THE CRUMBLER

Three lilies sat crumpled on the hub of a tree,  
For the weather was chilly and cold as could be,  
"But the springtime is here, soon shall we be clear."  
And summer will come ever blithe and clear.  
"You don't know that to be true," replied Number One,  
"We'll be dead every time, ere it comes," said the Third.  
Three ducklings stood ranged by the side of the brook,  
The water had truly a dangerous look,  
"But we venture right out and swim fully about."  
And lo! they were all dead ere it was a day.  
"Why, yes, father," Ruth said rather resentfully,  
"I suppose it was his money that saved him from that prison, and I must say I never exactly liked him myself, but he was a good fellow." The picture and dining room are just lined with family portraits.

### NOT TO BE MENDED

Charles Dickens once wrote to a friend, "I have just finished a volume in two respects lately. I took a young lady, unknown, down to dinner, and talked for an hour about the Bishop of Durham's nepotism in the matter of Mr. Chas. I found she was Miss Chess. And explicated to the number for Mayhew, thinking him to be an Irish member, on the constituency of the Marlborough constituency and the Marlborough representative."  
Two such mislapses in one evening were enough to reduce the most fastidious talker to the condition of the three inside passengers of a London-bound coach, who bawled out the tedious of the journey from Southampton by discussing the details of William Cobbett, until one of the party went so far as to assert that the object of their denunciation was a domestic tyrant, given to beating his wife.

### FATHER'S SNAPSHOTS

FATHER'S face turned from one daughter to the other, almost lovingly exasperated.  
"I felt I was in luck when they took me through the old place. I felt as if I had won the prize of a picture. It was as if he felt a sort of antagonism in his daughters where he had expected something very different.  
"Five minutes later he was going slowly up the stairs with the portfolio of pictures.  
"The girls don't seem to think much of it," he said rather heavily to his wife, "and I must say I'm disappointed. Janet and Ruth both have great ideas about their own pictures. Everybody has been longing to the 'Mayflower Descendants' but they have notions that those same ancestors would be their own."

### BEATS FOR FOUR

The car was crowded, and behind a newspaper several able-bodied men were devouring the latest news with determined interest. They quite failed, indeed, to notice that three women were standing. Kitchener's three women were together. They were plain women, each with some good-sized bundle and they looked tired. In the late afternoon news, they had just had a long drive to the newspaper, just at that moment. Perhaps that is how they happened to see her.

### STICK TO IT

When you have chosen your occupation stick to it, and let others alone, is the rule for success. There is sound wisdom in it. If you wish to break through a solid wall, you do not attempt to do it by knocking first here and then there along its whole length. You start at one point and strike there, blow after blow, until your object is accomplished. None of us can strive to be too much, but we weaken our lives by striving to be too many. If we aim our life low, we shall never succeed in high work. We are not to be too many.

## THE WAY OF IT

### CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

The mistletoe hung in the castle hall;  
The holly branch shone on the old oak wall.  
Hollyhocks at the arched doorway,  
Where the babe was born,  
Sung with many a change  
Christmas carols until morn.  
At Christmas I no more desire a  
roughed shawl.  
I wish a snow in May's now-forgotten  
snows.  
Be merry, be merry all.  
With holly bring the festive hall,  
Prepare the feast, the feast,  
To welcome merry Christmas.  
-W. H. Spencer.

### THE IRISH LACE

Barth Stilleman, dropping in on her old friend, Ellen Kirke, found her sitting in the big bay window, crocheting Irish lace. She looked like a picture from a story book. She had a certain gravitas whenever she spoke. It was in her eyes that she carried her life. She was a devoted Christian, and a member of the Methodist Church.

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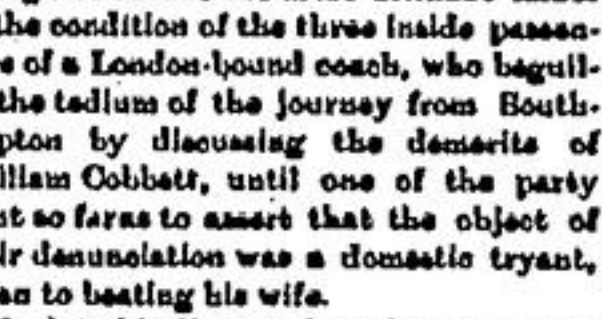
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MANAGER  
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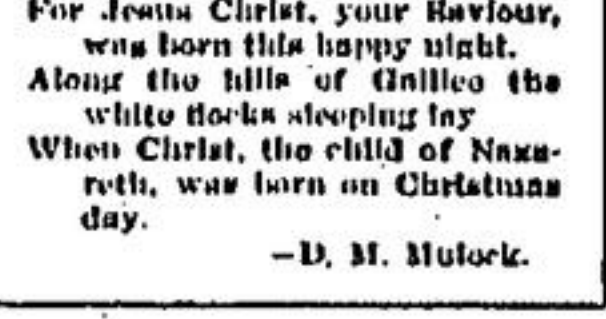
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